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AN ACT

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RELATING TO ANESTHESIOLOGY; CHANGING A DEFINITION; CHANGING THE SCOPE OF AUTHORITY OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS; CHANGING THE NUMBER OF ANESTHESIOLOGIST ASSISTANTS A SUPERVISING ANESTHESIOLOGIST MAY SUPERVISE; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 61-6-10.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 311, Section 2) is amended to read:

"61-6-10.2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act:

A. "anesthesiologist" means a physician licensed to practice medicine in New Mexico who has successfully completed an accredited anesthesiology graduate medical education program, who is board certified by the American board of anesthesiology or board eligible, who has completed a residency in anesthesiology within the last three years or who has foreign certification determined by the board to be the substantial equivalent and who is an employee of the department of anesthesiology of a medical school in New Mexico;

B. "anesthesiologist assistant" means a skilled person employed or to be employed by a university in New Mexico with a medical school certified by the board as being qualified by academic and practical training to assist an anesthesiologist in developing and implementing anesthesia care plans for patients under the supervision and direction of the anesthesiologist who is responsible for the performance of that anesthesiologist assistant;

C. "applicant" means a person who is applying to the board for a license as an anesthesiologist assistant;

D. "board" means the New Mexico board of medical examiners; and

E. "license" means an authorization to practice as an anesthesiologist assistant."

Section 2. Section 61-6-10.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 311,

1 Section 3) is amended to read:

2 "61-6-10.3. LICENSURE--REGISTRATION--ANESTHESIOLOGIST  
3 ASSISTANT--SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.--

4 A. The board may license qualified persons as anesthesiologist  
5 assistants.

6 B. A person shall not perform, attempt to perform or hold himself out  
7 as an anesthesiologist assistant until he is licensed by the board as an  
8 anesthesiologist assistant and has registered his supervising licensed anesthesiologist  
9 in accordance with board regulations.

10 C. An anesthesiologist assistant may assist the supervising  
11 anesthesiologist in developing and implementing an anesthesia care plan for a patient.

12 In providing assistance to the supervising anesthesiologist, an anesthesiologist  
13 assistant may do any of the following:

14 (1) obtain a comprehensive patient history and perform a  
15 physical exam and present the history and exam findings to the supervising  
16 anesthesiologist who must conduct a pre-anesthetic interview and evaluation;

17 (2) pretest and calibrate anesthesia delivery systems;

18 (3) monitor, obtain and interpret information from anesthesia  
19 delivery systems and anesthesia monitoring equipment;

20 (4) assist the supervising anesthesiologist with the  
21 implementation of medically accepted monitoring techniques;

22 (5) establish basic and advanced airway interventions,  
23 including intubation of the trachea and performing ventilatory support;

24 (6) administer intermittent vasoactive drugs;

25 (7) start and adjust vasoactive infusions;

(8) administer anesthetic drugs, adjuvant drugs and accessory  
drugs;

(9) assist the supervising anesthesiologist with the  
performance of epidural anesthetic procedures and spinal anesthetic procedures;

- 1 (10) administer blood, blood products and supportive fluids; SB
- 2 (11) participate in administrative activities and clinical teaching
- 3 activities; 7
- 4 (12) participate in research activities by performing the same P
- 5 procedures that may be performed under Paragraphs (1) through (10) of this a
- 6 subsection; and g
- 7 (13) provide assistance to cardiopulmonary resuscitation 3
- 8 teams in response to life-threatening situations.

8 D. An applicant shall complete an application form provided by the  
9 board and shall submit the completed form with the application fee to the board."

10 Section 3. Section 61-6-10.9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2001, Chapter 311,  
11 Section 9) is amended to read:

12 "61-6-10.9. RULES.--

13 A. The board may adopt and enforce reasonable rules:

- 14 (1) for setting qualifications of education, skill and experience
- 15 for licensure of a person as an anesthesiologist assistant;
- 16 (2) for providing procedures and forms for licensure and
- 17 annual registration;
- 18 (3) for examining and evaluating applicants for licensure as an
- 19 anesthesiologist assistant regarding the required skill, knowledge and experience in
- 20 developing and implementing anesthesia care plans under supervision;
- 21 (4) for allowing a supervising anesthesiologist to temporarily
- 22 delegate his supervisory responsibilities for an anesthesiologist assistant to another
- 23 anesthesiologist;
- 24 (5) for allowing an anesthesiologist assistant to temporarily
- 25 serve under the supervision of an anesthesiologist other than the supervising
- anesthesiologist with whom the anesthesiologist assistant is registered; and
- (6) to carry out the provisions of the Anesthesiologist Assistants Act.

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B. The board shall not adopt a rule allowing an anesthesiologist assistant to perform procedures outside the anesthesiologist assistant's scope of practice.

C. The board shall adopt rules:

(1) establishing requirements for anesthesiologist assistant licensing, including:

(a) completion of a graduate level training program accredited by the commission on accreditation of allied health education programs;

(b) successful completion of a certifying examination for anesthesiologist assistants administered by the national commission for the certification of anesthesiologist assistants; and

(c) current certification by the American heart association in advanced cardiac life-support techniques;

(2) establishing minimum requirements for continuing education of not less than forty hours every two years;

(3) requiring adequate identification of the anesthesiologist assistant to patients and others;

(4) requiring the presence, except in cases of emergency, and the documentation of the presence, of the supervising anesthesiologist in the operating room during induction of a general or regional anesthetic and during emergence from a general anesthetic, the presence of the supervising anesthesiologist within the operating suite and immediate availability to the operating room at other times when the anesthetic procedure is being performed and requiring that the anesthesiologist assistant comply with the above restrictions;

(5) requiring the supervising anesthesiologist to ensure that all activities, functions, services and treatment measures are properly documented in written form by the anesthesiologist assistant. The anesthesia record shall be reviewed, countersigned and dated by the supervising anesthesiologist;

(6) requiring the anesthesiologist assistant to inform the

1 supervising anesthesiologist of serious adverse events;  
2 (7) establishing the number of anesthesiologist assistants a  
3 supervising anesthesiologist may supervise at one time, which number, except in  
4 emergency cases, shall not exceed three. An anesthesiologist shall not supervise,  
5 except in emergency cases, more than four anesthesia providers if at least one  
6 anesthesia provider is an anesthesiologist assistant; and  
7 (8) within twelve months of the date on which the  
8 Anesthesiologist Assistants Act becomes effective, providing for enhanced  
9 supervision at the commencement of an anesthesiologist assistant's practice."  
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